



# Tallil Times

## IN BRIEF

### BX/PX Inventory Closure

The Tallil Air Base Main Post/Base Exchange will be closed Nov. 28 for inventory. The store is scheduled to reopen with its normal operating hours Nov. 29.

### Off Duty Education

The Learning Skills Center here at Tallil Air Base offers CLEP, DANTES, Excelsior, CDC, ACSC, SOS, Air War College Testing and other off duty education opportunities. Their office is located in Bldg I-1, the brown Conex across from the Cyber Café & Library. Hours of Operation are 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Saturday. For more information, call at 459-1212.

### QIT Laundry Hours

The QIT Laundry in Tent City has new operating hours. The contracted laundry service will be open from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m., seven days a week for drop off and pick up of clothing items.

### Operation Outreach POC

Individuals who have donations for Operation Reach Out should contact SrA Marla Bell of our Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron so the items can be sorted and grouped prior to distribution.

SrA Bell can be reached at 459-0070 or by e-mail at [marla.bell@tlab.aorcentaf.af.mil](mailto:marla.bell@tlab.aorcentaf.af.mil).

Additional questions about Operation Reach Out should be directed to MSgt Ragland at 459-0077 by or e-mail at: [john.ragland@tlab.aorcentaf.af.mil](mailto:john.ragland@tlab.aorcentaf.af.mil).

### Badge wear

Per 407th Air Expeditionary Group policy, everyone must display their restricted area badges when in Tent City.



Photo by Master Sgt. Don Perrien

Food service workers prepare a dinner plate Monday evening during the grand opening of the new DFAC here at Tallil Air Base. The dining facility currently serves three meals a day for deployed personnel, and plans to start a midnight meal later this week to better serve its customers.

## Tallil AB opens new DFAC

By Master Sgt. Don Perrien

407th AEG Public Affairs

Servicemembers deployed to Tallil Air Base will have a larger, more functional place to enjoy their meals as the new DFAC officially opened for business Monday.

Sporting marble-topped tables, big-screen televisions and improved seating, the newly-constructed dining facility is the largest major construction project on Tallil Air Base since American and coalition forces established operations here in 2003.

"The building is new, all the appliances are new, all the seats and tables are new, everything you can see is new," said Robert "Outlaw" Easterling, KBR site coordinator for the project.

"However, the thing I'm most proud of is that this building was built with 100 percent local national labor," Mr. Easterling said. "This project didn't just build a dining facility, it built a bridge between our people here and the local community."

The new facility includes hot grills for short order menu items, and dedicated rooms for VIP and special events. The facility can accommodate around 3,000 people per meal.

"This facility is really nice, it's a big improvement from the old DFAC, with lots of open space," said Senior Master Sgt. Randall Bowers, DPW construction management superintendent. "I think people will really like all the improvements in the DFAC, this dining hall is as good as many you'll find back in the States."

# Commander's Corner

By Col. Wade Johnson

407th AEG commander

Most of us are well into our third month of deployment here at Tallil Air Base. We're already putting together our letters of evaluation, and thinking about our end of tour awards.

But we are by no means done with our mission here with the 407th Air Expeditionary Group. This is not the time for complacency, and certainly not the time to focus on anything other than the mission at hand.

Keep focused on your mission, and make sure your co-workers are doing the same. We have to watch out for each other, and make sure we're doing our jobs safely, and by the book.

In the flying community, this type of behavior is called keeping an eye on your wingman. It's important to know our Airmen are not alone in anything we do out here. I want each of us to go home to our friends and families, in the same -- if not better -- condition than we arrived.



The wingman concept also extends away from the work place. We all have to look out for each other, especially during the holiday season. If you see your fellow Airman struggling with personal relationships here or back home, make sure they know there are ways we can help.

Our first sergeants, life skills office, and chapel staff are more than happy to assist our people. More often than not, problems caught early can be resolved much easier than by waiting until we get home.

On a different topic, yesterday's exercise went okay, but we identified some areas for improvement. Every Airman should know what to do during Alarm Red and Alarm Black.

I expect everyone to take these types of exercises seriously and with a sense of urgency. Think about what you would do if these events actually occurred here at Tallil. Make sure you know what to do in case of an emergency, and as a good wingman, make sure your fellow Airmen are properly trained and equipped as well. Exercises are the time to discover problems and fix them -- use the opportunity to your advantage.

Stay safe, prepared and vigilant.

## Tallil Talks ... What do you think about the new DFAC?



Senior Airman  
Eric Krakowiak,  
407th ECES Fire Dept.:  
"It's got a restaurant-like atmosphere. It's more civilized than the other DFAC."



Senior Airman.  
Nancy Lara,  
407th ESFS:  
"I haven't had a chance to eat there yet, but I'm looking forward to it."



Staff Sgt.  
Jay Haslip,  
407th EMDG:  
"It's a nice change from the old DFAC. It's clean and has lots of room."



Airman 1st Class.  
Ryan Schraufstetter,  
407th ECS:  
"There's more room to spread out, and I like the grill. You can see them cook the food and get hot eggs in the morning."



The Tallil Times

### EDITORIAL STAFF

Col. Wade Johnson  
Commander, 407th AEG

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The content is edited, prepared and provided by the Public Affairs Office of the 407th Air Expeditionary Group. All photographs are U.S. Air Force photo-

graphs unless otherwise indicated.

The TALLIL TIMES accepts stories, photographs and commentaries, which may be submitted to the PA staff located in the group headquarters building or can be sent directly to the newspaper at tallil.times@tlab.aorcentaf.af.mil

Deadline for publication is 2 p.m. Thursday before the week of publication. For more information, call 459-0002, or e-mail the staff.

# AF leaders send Thanksgiving message

WASHINGTON (AFPN) — The following is a Thanksgiving message from Secretary of the Air Force Dr. James G. Roche and Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John P. Jumper:

"Each year, Americans set aside the special day of 'Thanksgiving' to gather with family and friends to count their blessings. At the first Thanksgiving festivals in the Virginia and Massachusetts colonies, the original settlers made praise and prayer for a bountiful harvest and hope for a promising future the centerpiece of their celebrations.

"This Thanksgiving, we are reminded

of the blessings we have as Americans because our nation still holds the promise of bountiful lands and the right of freedom. We enjoy peace and prosperity like no other nation. The rest of the world admires our way of life because America's values are bedrock.

"For Airmen, we count an extra blessing around the Thanksgiving table this year: the privilege of serving in the greatest air and space force in the world. By your professionalism, dedication and willingness to answer our country's call at a time of war, you stand as the shining example of strength, courage, and patriotism

for us all. Indeed, as Americans give thanks for their many blessings this Thanksgiving Day, they'll offer their gratitude to you for safeguarding our great nation.

"This Thanksgiving Day finds many of our Airmen deployed throughout the world in defense of America and to help give others a chance for freedom. Please remember them in your prayers and make sure their families are taken care of on this special holiday.

"We're very proud of you and your families for what you do to protect our cherished freedoms. Happy Thanksgiving!"

## Special people, unique skills make Air Force work

By Lt. Col. Russell Quinn

52nd Operations Support Squadron

"It is not the critic who counts, nor the man who points how the strong man stumbled or where the doer of deeds could have done them better.

"The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena; whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly; ... who knows the great enthusiasms, the great devotions and spends himself in a worthy cause; who, at best, knows the triumph of high achievement; and who, at the worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who know neither victory nor defeat."

This words were first spoken by Teddy Roosevelt, April 23, 1910, during his "Man in the Arena" speech.

So what is your story? What is it that made you choose this line of work anyway?

I ask only to point out something you may not have considered. This is an amazing time to be in the service of our country, and an even more amazing time to be a member of the United States Air Force.

Consider these two things:

The U.S. Air Force is by far the most powerful, precise and advanced air force that exists on Earth today.

You are part of that. In fact, you are integral to that power and precision. You need to know, whoever you are or what-

ever your skill level, that we would not be as strong as we are without you.

Equipment is great, but the people make the Air Force work. Ask anybody, inside or outside our military.

The individuals we work with today are the smartest, most talented and motivated group of people we will most likely ever work with in our life.

We're very lucky that they are so focused when you consider the critical nature of our current conflict.

Our window of opportunity to make a difference is a relatively small window.

For some people, it will be a single enlistment, three to four years; for others, it may be 20 to 25 years.

Either way, we as individual members of the U.S. Air Force will spend the vast majority of our lives outside the service of our country. You may not look at your service this way, but I look at it that way every day.

Having joined at the age of 18 and served continuously until this day, I feel so very fortunate to have experienced so many things in the service of this great nation.

There is plenty of time in the future to wake up knowing that some other individual is in the arena; right now, it's our time. Consider that, and if you feel the same way I do, appreciate every minute, value every brother and sister in arms and continue doing the outstanding work that you do every day.



## Listen up Warfighters ...

*You can't get 'Fit to Fight' in just one afternoon workout before your physical assessment. Being a one-day warrior doesn't cut it. Get into a routine that includes at least 20 minutes of cardiovascular exercise three times a week, and practice your push-ups and sit-ups at least twice a week.*

**... carry on troops!**





By Tech. Sgt. Mark Diamond

*Air Mobility Command Public Affairs*

SCOTT AIR FORCE BASE, Ill. -- A new Air Mobility Command program, dubbed "Pure Pallet," is simplifying and speeding up airlift shipments into the U.S. Central Command's area of responsibility.

The program involves building and shipping individual aircraft pallets with cargo for a single customer, AMC officials said.

Lt. Col. Steve AuBuchon, AMC's cargo management branch chief of the logistics air transportation division, said that a customer's cargo is normally loaded onto an aircraft pallet with cargo for other customers within the same region.

Under this system, a single pallet could contain cargo for dozens of customers. The colonel said once these "mixed" pallets arrive at a forward-deployed aerial port, they must be broken down, sorted, re-palletized and distributed to the individual customers.

Besides adding a considerable amount of time to the delivery process, Colonel AuBuchon said the Airmen, Soldiers or Marines responsible for breaking down, sorting, rebuilding and redistributing these mixed shipments are vulnerable to attack for longer periods of time.

"In CENTCOM right now, the aerial ports are very restricted on the amount of cargo processing facilities, equipment, people and experience (because of) the threat of attack," he said. "If you're unloading and sorting cargo at Balad, you could easily have a mortar drop on top of you."

The program transfers this additional workload to what he called, "the peaceful end of the process."

When a pure pallet arrives at the deployed aerial port, it can be pulled from the aircraft and immediately handed off to the customer or placed on a truck or C-130 Hercules headed to more remote locations. "The process never stops," Colonel AuBuchon said.

The colonel said the program is based on

the principle that the earlier in the logistics pipeline that individual shipments are unitized into a single package, the quicker and more efficiently the package is going to go through the system.

"Obviously, there are going to be some limitations, but our limitations are (fewer) than they have [at the deployed aerial port], so we've taken this upon ourselves," he said.

What the program means to the warfighter is a more rapid and simplified distribution of shipments into the theater of operations, said Maj. Michael Kossow, the branch's chief of strategic distribution.

"Our nation's military efforts in support of the global war on terrorism, particularly those of the Army and Marine Corps in the Central Command area of responsibility, have changed the old paradigm of logistics support to a new philosophy of time-definite delivery," he said. "The focus is on airlifting shipments to the warfighter at the right speed, at the right time, and most importantly, on the right pallet to a designated location."

Since March, the program has been incorporated in aerial port operations at Dover Air Force Base, Del., Charleston AFB, S.C., and Ramstein Air Base, Germany, for cargo shipments into the CENTCOM theater.

The process of building each pure pallet begins at the aerial port, where cargo is held in aisles or lanes, according to the customer's Department of Defense activity address code. Colonel AuBuchon said the codes can be compared to ZIP codes used by the U.S. Postal Service — each customer has his or her own code.

"One of the problems with building pure pallets is having enough cargo to fill an entire pallet," the colonel said.

"When we were negotiating with the Army and Marine Corps, we told them it would kill us to ship a half-empty pallet," he said. "Airlift is a precious commodity, and we can't send a C-5 (Galaxy) over there with 36 half-empty pallets. We have better things to use that airlift for. Airlift is a precious national asset, and we

have to make sure we use it as efficiently as we can."

He said Army and Marine Corp officials said they would be willing to wait a certain number of days for the aerial port to accumulate cargo for specific codes. Additionally, Colonel AuBuchon said certain codes can be combined to fill a single pallet.

Although the aerial ports are holding cargo for an additional three to five days, Major Kossow said the program has still reduced delivery times into Southwest Asia.

He said because a single, mixed pallet could include cargo for dozens of customers within the same region, aerial port workers and customers expend valuable time and resources breaking down, sorting, rebuilding and distributing the shipments, resulting in delays of up to several weeks.

The major said pure pallets, on average, are reaching their customers in fewer than nine days.

But Colonel AuBuchon said AMC officials cannot take all the credit.

Although pure pallets are new to the Air Force, the colonel said AMC's program was actually modeled after a similar system used by the Defense Logistics Agency.

"Our pure pallet operations are much smaller than the Defense Logistics Agency, but no less effective," Colonel AuBuchon said. "Our program has been very successful. (Soldiers have) had some very high praise for the program, not only because the cargo is getting to them faster, but because of the quality job AMC is doing."

Major Kossow said the "quality" is a byproduct of the hard work from AMC Airmen.

"Our AMC aerial ports at Charleston, Dover and Ramstein have made a very complex and unique task look easy," he said, "but the reality is these aerial port professionals have really stepped up to the task with hard work, creativity and an insatiable drive to keep the warfighter equipped in the global war on terrorism."



## Veterans Day Retreat Ceremony

Members of the 407th Air Expeditionary Group Honor Guard secure the colors as part of a Veterans Day retreat ceremony held at the Tallil Air Base Tent City compound Nov. 11. More than 80 Airmen assigned to the 407th AEG participated in the event honoring veterans of armed conflicts past and present.

## AROUND YOUR AIR FORCE

### AFA relieves cadets from duty

Academy officials here have announced that 15 of 21 cadets assigned to the Cadet Wing's Group 1 fall semester staff have been relieved of their duties following reports of inappropriate conduct at an offsite meeting in Winter Park, Colo., Oct. 1 and 2.

The inappropriate conduct reportedly involved underage drinking and is under investigation.

Academy officials said appropriate disciplinary action will be taken once the investigation is completed and results have been reviewed. The cadets involved are all senior- or junior-class cadets.

Group 1 spring semester staff members will replace those who were relieved.

### Airmen help Santa answer Christmas letters

Air Force volunteers from the combat weather flight at Eielson Air Force Base, Alaska will once again help Santa send out thousands of signed, North Pole-post marked letters to children worldwide.

The Santa's Mailbag program started 50 years ago by 58th Weather Reconnaissance

Squadron Airmen, and it has been carried on by those of the 354th Operations Support Squadron.

Each year, the unit receives thousands of Dear Santa Claus letters and Christmas-wish lists. Volunteers in the weather flight sort and read the letters, select an appropriate reply from Santa Claus and mail the letters with an official North Pole postmark. Last year, the program received about 4,000 letters.

"This program is a very important local tradition which has been carried on by weather Airmen along the years," said 2nd Lt. Pedro Gonzalez, weather flight volunteer. "We take a lot of pride in running it. The kids get a lot of joy in receiving a letter from Santa with a North Pole stamp, and the parents get a great memento."

The volunteers start processing letters in late November and will continue through Christmas. The flight must receive letters to Santa by mid-December to ensure a reply before Christmas. Children whose letters arrive too late will get a special "after Christmas" letter from Santa.

"We are hoping to start getting letters right after Thanksgiving," said Lieutenant Gonzalez. "Since the post office can get

swamped during the holidays, people should try to send the letters as early as possible."

Children can write to Santa at: Santa's Mailbag, 354th OSS/OSW, 2827 Flightline Ave. Suite 100B, Eielson AFB AK 99702-1520.

There is no cost for the letters, but self-addressed stamped envelopes or donations made out to "Santa's Mailbag" to help defray the cost of postage and supplies are accepted.

### AF offers ACP for FY 2005

Certain rated officers can request an aviator continuation pay bonus option under fiscal 2005 program guidelines.

A five-year, fixed-length agreement option is available to eligible pilots, navigators and air battle managers.

Other options have been offered in recent years, but were curtailed this year in light of current and forecasted inventory, retention and market conditions.

Air Force personnel officials said only aviators that meet initial eligible criteria may apply.

To learn more about the program, visit [www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/acp](http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/acp)



# Services SNCO tapped as 'Jeep Chief'

By Master Sgt. Don Perrien

407th AEG Public Affairs

The Air Force is steeped in traditions among its enlisted corps. One such tradition among the most senior of NCOs is that of the "Jeep Chief."

The Jeep Chief is normally the lowest-ranking chief master sergeant recently promoted to the grade of E-9. However, here at Tallil Air Base, the 407th Air Expeditionary Chiefs Group have decided to pass the honor of Jeep Chief to the unit's newest chief selectee, Senior Master Sgt. Ed Salinas of the 407th Expeditionary Services Squadron.

In recognition of his newfound status, Sergeant Salinas carries a wooden, hand-crafted Jeep marked with the 407th AEG logo.

The "Jeep" is symbolic throughout the military for two things.

First, the Jeep is a military vehicle used as a mode of transportation; it's rugged, dependable, versatile, and could and would go anywhere – just as a Chief is expected to in the Air Force.

Second, the term "Jeep" has traditionally been used by the military to refer to an individual who is junior or the newest. In keeping with military tradition, previous Chiefs have selected "The Jeep" to be symbolic of the status of the most recently promoted chief.

Usually, the Jeep Chief keeps the Jeep until a new Chief is promoted. However, due to the small enlisted chief population of Tallil, the Chief's Group plans to limit Sergeant Salinas' time as Jeep Chief to only two weeks. However, the junior chief will still be addressed by his peers as "Jeep Chief-select."

Why would the local Chief's Group limit the time of the newest Jeep Chief? Well, carrying the symbolic Jeep is a responsibility – and a target for shenanigans of theft and mayhem.

If the Jeep Chief fails to properly take care of his Jeep or keep it in his possession, he can be fined by his fellow chiefs.

"At my last deployment, the Jeep Chief lost his Jeep twice," said Chief Master Sgt. T.J. Liter, Command Post superintendent.

"The first time, the Red Horse engineers stole the Jeep, and they encased it in a

two-foot thick block of cement," he said. "They put the block on a dolly with wheels and a handle, so the Jeep Chief had to pull it around like a little kid with a wagon.

"After he chiseled the Jeep out, this Jeep Chief lost it again – this time to the EMEDS folks," Chief Liter said. "The doctors took a page from the CE troops and encased the Jeep again, but this time in a plaster cast."

The current Jeep Chief is already wary of the people who would steal the Jeep.

"I noticed people looking at the Jeep this morning," Sergeant Salinas said while firmly grasping the handle of Tallil's symbolic Jeep. "But I'm keeping it with me – right here."

For the newest Jeep Chief – past Jeep Chiefs have only one piece of advice.

"Trust no one," said Chief Liter. "Not your coworkers, and especially not your fellow chiefs – if you turn your back on the Jeep one second, it'll be gone."



Photo by Airman 1st Class Nadeem Haji

Senior Master Sgt. Ed Salinas poses with the Jeep Chief's Jeep. As the Group's newest Chief, he is charged with caring for the Jeep.

## Rules of the 'Jeep Chief Select'

**Rule # 1:** The JEEP Chief Select is solely responsible for the condition of the JEEP CHIEF SELECT'S JEEP. The JEEP must be kept intact, clean, and serviceable.

**Rule # 2:** The CHIEF SELECT'S JEEP shall accompany the JEEP CHIEF SELECT whenever said chief is in uniform, throughout the duty day, and to all official functions, regardless of the time or day of that function's occurrence.

**Rule # 3:** The CHIEF SELECT'S JEEP shall always be displayed in a place of honor and in plain view. Plain view is further defined as a location where all who enter the JEEP CHIEF SELECT's office can see the JEEP.

**Rule # 4:** The JEEP will not be drilled, bolted, glued, welded, or affixed in such a manner that would prevent its theft.

**Rule # 5:** Never leave the JEEP CHIEF SELECT'S JEEP unattended, for this would provide the opportunity for a chief or troop to steal the JEEP CHIEF SELECT'S JEEP. Whoever takes possession of (yes steals) the JEEP CHIEF SELECT'S JEEP must turn the JEEP over to a chief in order to officially document the security lapse.

**Rule # 6:** If the sacred JEEP is stolen, and not immediately returned or retrieved, the JEEP CHIEF SELECT must scramble in search of the JEEP CHIEF SELECT'S JEEP.

**Rule # 7:** The JEEP CHIEF SELECT will make good on their fines at the first public Chiefs' gathering following the day of violation.

**Rule # 8:** The JEEP CHIEF SELECT normally maintains custody of the JEEP CHIEF SELECT'S JEEP during the entire promotion month but in this case two weeks will suffice.

**Rule # 9:** The JEEP CHIEF SELECT will display pride in ownership of the JEEP. The JEEP CHIEF SELECT will view possession of the JEEP as a golden opportunity to excel, and will make one improvement to this sacred symbol. This improvement will be completed before he returns the JEEP to his fellow Chiefs. IF, the JEEP CHIEF SELECT'S JEEP improvement is acceptable to his fellow Chiefs then, and only then, will the JEEP CHIEF SELECT complete the rite of passage as a Chief Master Sergeant.

# Thanksgiving Event Schedule

## At the Hot Spot

Ziggurat tour at 10 a.m.  
8-ball at 10 a.m.  
Ping-pong at 10 a.m.  
Rummy at 11 a.m.  
Foosball at 5 p.m.  
Air Hockey at 6 p.m.  
Uno tourney at 5 p.m.  
Dominoes at 7 p.m.  
Spades at 8 p.m.



## Special:

**Scavenger Hunt from 5 - 7 p.m.**  
**New Release Movies,**  
**and FREE Slushies all day!**

## At the Fitness Center

5 & 10K Turkey Trot at 7 a.m.  
(Sign up NLT 6:45 a.m.)

Horseshoes at 10 a.m.  
(Signup NLT 9 a.m.)

Dodgeball Tourney at 2 p.m.  
(Sign up NLT noon)



## From the Chapel Staff

Wednesday Evening:  
Joint Ecumenical Worship Service at 7:30 p.m.  
(In the Big Top)  
Refreshments and fellowship afterwards!

Thursday: Catholic Mass at 9 a.m.



**Cost of a new computer = \$1,500**  
**Monthly Internet access = \$20**  
**Weekly cost of the Tallil Times = Priceless**

**The Tallil Times is the official publication of Tallil Air Base and the 407th Air Expeditionary Wing.**

**It's available for FREE download each Friday at**  
**<http://www.afnews.af.mil/internal/papers/Tallil.pdf>**

**Tell your friends and family about the**  
**Tallil Times!**



# You can only imagine the things I see ...

By Tech. Sgt. Rusty Schmidt

407th AEG Ground Safety

**So there I was ...** driving around Tallil when I drove into one of the squadron's compound and noticed an individual popping wheelies with a Bobcat.

I thought to myself that maybe he just gave it too much gas, I like think people are doing the right things. So I watched the individual retrieve a second piece of equipment off the trailer wheel around and put the equipment in place, then popped a wheelie and rode it all the way to the trailer.

I pulled my truck up to the trailer so the big green "SAFETY" sign was showing and he slowed down and drove in a civilized manner.

**So there I was ...** driving down Airport road, after just arriving a few days prior on Tallil, and a pick-up passed me with luggage piled high, and not one -- but two Airmen riding on the top of the luggage.

I turned around and followed the pick-up to the passenger terminal where I approached the NCO and asked if he knew the rules about riding in the back of pick-ups.

He responded he did, but there was no room in the front for them to ride. I told him making two trips is better than writing a letter home on behalf of a dead Airman any day of the week.

**So there I was ...** standing in front of the Group Headquarters building when a deuce-and-a-half drove through a stop sign.

When I say drove, I mean the driver didn't even take his foot off the gas.

I hopped in the safety vehicle and went to where the deuce-and-a-half parked and asked to speak to the driver. The driver didn't have an excuse of why he didn't stop -- so I talked to the flight sergeant to have the individual retrained.

**So there I was ...** checking for reflective gear when I spotted a few individuals not wearing any.

So as a good ground safety NCO, I approached them and asked "Where is your reflective gear?"

The responses I received ranged from: "Is that mandatory?" to "My boss locked it in his truck," to "We always cross at the stop sign!" or even "It's a well lit area!"

All good excuses, but the wrong answer to a very basic question.

What's the common denominator to all these stories?

Every one of these stories shows a lack of safety for themselves or other personnel on Tallil.

I ask everyone just to think about what you do -- before you do it. There's an old adage that says every safety rule was first written in blood.

The reason we have rules about riding in the back of pick-ups, wearing of seatbelts, and general safety policy is that somewhere, someone has been seriously injured or died because of those prohibited activities.

# Strong passwords help keep computers secure

By Senior Airman Pei-Chieh Buster

407th ECS Information Assurance Manager

The single biggest computing security problem today, as it has been for decades, is poor selection, maintenance and protection of user passwords.

Most computer systems still rely heavily on passwords for authenticating user access, and human nature being what it is, people tend to choose passwords that are easy for themselves to remember.

Of course, common passwords such as your dog's name, daughter's birthday, or favorite singer can be easy for other people to figure out. In many cases, people will make it even easier for intruders by writing their password down on a post-it note and stick it on the monitor where they (and anyone else) can see it as a reminder.

Sometimes people will choose a word at random from the dictionary, thinking "no one could possibly guess".

Password "cracking" is a favorite activity of people who get their kicks trying to break into computer systems, and the power of modern computers has given them some very effective tools to do it with.

"Cracking dictionaries" can try not only every English dictionary word, but also well-known phrases, slang words, substitutions (e.g., "time2go") and a surprising number of other obscure things to attempt to crack your password. That's why creating a strong password is important.

The restrictions for passwords on all Air Force NIPRNet and SIPRNet accounts are designed to ensure everyone who uses these systems has a strong password.

Users should choose a password that is at least 8 characters long, but less than 16, and have a mixture of all of the following: UPPER-CASE (A-Z), lowercase (a-z), digits (0-9), special characters (@#\$%&\*, etc.).

Passwords should not contain whole dictionary words, and should avoid names or phrases that people with personal knowledge of you might be able to guess.

One technique often recommended is to think of a phrase that has meaning only to you (it can even be nonsensical) and take the first letter of each word to "assemble" your password.

For example, "Orange elephants invade Alaska; film at eleven" would yield 'OeiA;f@11' as the password.

For even better security, replace "at" with "@" and "eleven" with "11", for a password of 'OeiA;f@11'.

(Note: "Orange elephants..." is a famous example - don't use this as your password).

It's also a good idea to change your password periodically, usually once a month. This will help protect your password in the event it is compromised.

Above all, don't share your password with anyone, and don't write it down - the only secure place for your password is in your head.





## 407th AEG Warrior of the Week SSgt Joseph Zepeda

**Unit:** 407th  
Expeditionary  
Operations  
Support  
Squadron

**Home unit:**  
86AMXS,  
Ramstein AB,  
Germany

**Why other  
warriors say  
he's a warrior:**  
"SSgt Zepeda  
consistently



shows technical and leadership abilities beyond his grade. Whether it's the frequent unexpected aircraft arriving at Tallil or the odd aircraft that requires maintenance to continue on its mission, Sergeant Zepeda is the first person to adapt to the situation. He quickly reassesses ramp capabilities while tackling aircraft needs. He is the most outstanding technician regarding C-130 maintenance issues on Tallil. He instills confidence in aircrews traversing Tallil that their maintenance issues will be handled professionally, quickly and safely. From DV aircraft to helicopters he keeps ramp operations running smoothly."

## Identify This



**KNOW WHAT THIS IS?** Each week, the "Tallil Times" staff takes a photo from around Tallil AB. If you can identify the object or item, shoot us an e-mail at: [tallil.times@tlab.aorcentaf.af.mil](mailto:tallil.times@tlab.aorcentaf.af.mil). with "Identify This" in the subject block. The winner receives a prize and gets their name printed in the Tallil Times. Congratulations to Master Sgt. Lawrence Anderson for correctly identifying the photo in last week's newspaper of the kevlar helmet support straps.

## Wild Iraqi Safari

### Bats!

If you look up in the sky after sunset, especially around lights, you may see bats flying around.

Although many people are nervous about bats, they pose little threat to people who don't try to handle them and they provide many useful services. Bats are important for pollination and seed dispersal of plants such as bananas, mangos, and cashews. They also help control pest insects; a single bat can catch 1,200 small insects in only an hour!

Because bats are mammals, they're warm-blooded, have fur, bear their pups live and feed them milk.

There are over 1,100 species of bats in the world. The two main types of bats are Microchiroptera and the Megachiroptera.

Microchiropteran bats are generally small, eat insects and use echolocation (a type of sonar) to navigate. Megachiropteran bats are large, have dog-like faces, eat fruit, nectar and pollen and live in tropical locations. Most don't use echolocation.

We only have microchiropteran bats here at Tallil, so when the dining facility runs out of fruit, don't blame it on the bats.

Bats aren't blind, but they rely on echolocation while flying to avoid obstacles and predators and to locate insects to eat. They make high frequency calls from their mouths or noses and then listen for the echoes to bounce back from objects in front of them. Bats can also sense people this way, so they won't accidentally run into you.

Compared to rabbits or other small mammals, bats are very slow to reproduce. Most produce only one pup per year. This makes bats especially vulnerable to extinction, so don't bother our bats at Tallil!



*Column courtesy of John Ploch, Vector Control, KBR contractor and Maj. Sharon Spradling, 407th Leishmaniasis Surveillance and Investigation Team.*



1st  
Place



2nd  
Place



## Base populace puts talent on display

Eight acts vied for fame, fortune and the coveted title of Tallil Idol at the basewide talent show held in the Big Top Sunday night.

Acts from Air Force and Army units dazzled the audience, and even occasionally impressed the so-called celebrity panel of experts who judged the event.

More than 200 Soldiers and Airmen from across Tallil Air Base attended the event as Chad Gallant took home the title of Tallil Idol, Christine Tollison finished second, and Charles Cooley took third place.



3rd  
Place



## OUT AND ABOUT



### Worship services

Worship is at the 407th Air Expeditionary Group Oasis of Peace Chapel, unless otherwise noted. The chapel is open 24 hours a day for prayer and reflection. For details on worship opportunities, call 459-0006.

#### Sunday

**8 a.m.** Roman Catholic Mass  
**9:30 a.m.** Traditional Protestant service  
**10 a.m.** LDS service at the Army's Religious Activity Center  
**12:30 p.m.** Air Force/Army Gospel service in the Big Top  
**6 p.m.** Contemporary choir rehearsal  
**7 p.m.** Contemporary worship service

#### Monday

**6:30 p.m.** Gospel service prayer time in the chapel resource trailer  
**6 p.m.** Roman Catholic Mass  
**7 p.m.** Experiencing God Bible Study in the Chapel Annex  
**7:30 p.m.** Gospel choir rehearsal in the Big Top

#### Tuesday

**7 p.m.** Right of Christian Initiation of Adults in the Conference Room  
**7:15 p.m.** Christian Leadership Bible study  
**8 p.m.** Christian Discipleship Study. Call Marine Staff Sgt. Ross Hrynewych at 459-0761 for details.

#### Wednesday

**5 p.m.** Catholic Choir rehearsal  
**6 p.m.** Roman Catholic Mass  
**7:30 p.m.** Protestant Choir rehearsal  
**8 p.m.** Purpose Driven Life Study in the chapel annex

#### Thursday

**6:30 p.m.** Catholic choir rehearsal  
**7 p.m.** Right of Christian Initiation of Adults in the Conference Room  
**7 p.m.** LDS study in the Army Religious Activity Center  
**7:45 p.m.** Gospel service Bible study

#### Friday

**11:45 a.m.** Islamic prayer at the RAC, call 833-1154 for info  
**6 p.m.** Roman Catholic Mass  
**7:30 p.m.** Gospel choir rehearsal

#### Saturday

**6 p.m.** Vigil Mass  
**7 p.m.** Contemporary choir rehearsal



### ESVS Presents Just for fun

**Tonight,** Combat Bingo,  
 7:30 p.m. in the Big Top;  
 Country Music at 8:30 p.m.

**Saturday,** Dominoes at 8 p.m.;  
 Saturday Nite Club Mix at the  
 Big Top, 9 p.m.

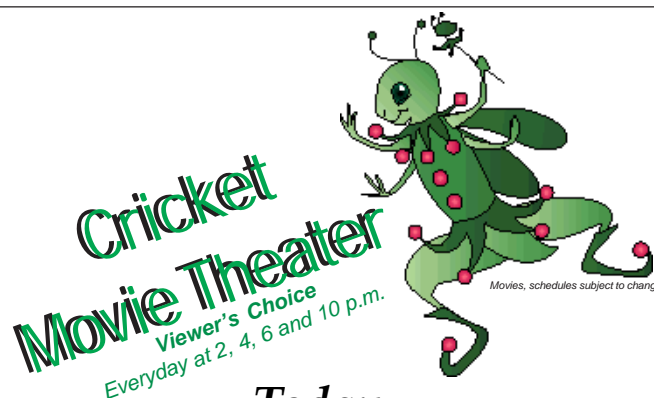
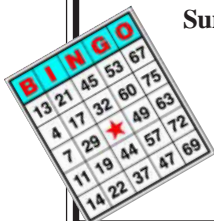
**Sunday,** Jenga at  
 8 p.m.

**Monday,**  
 Bid Whist, 8 p.m.

**Tuesday,** Uno, 8 p.m.

**Wednesday,**  
 Rummy, 4 p.m.;  
 Hearts, 8 p.m.;  
 Spades,  
 midnight

**Thursday,**  
 All day games  
 & tournaments  
 starting at 10 a.m.



### Today

Noon, Sleepover  
 8 p.m., The Terminal  
 Midnight, The Terminal

### Saturday

Noon, Taxi  
 8 p.m., Hero  
 Midnight, Hero

### Sunday

Noon, I Heart Huckabees  
 8 p.m., Exorcist: The Beginning  
 Midnight, Exorcist: The Beginning

### Monday

Noon, Sky Captain and the World of Tomorrow  
 8 p.m., Catwoman  
 Midnight, Catwoman

### Tuesday

Noon, Sleepover  
 8 p.m., King Arthur  
 Midnight, King Arthur

### Wednesday

Noon, The Terminal  
 8 p.m., Anchorman  
 Midnight, Anchorman

### Thursday

10 a.m., Anchorman – Noon, The Village  
 2 p.m., The Terminal – 4 p.m., Sky Captain  
 6 p.m., Huckabees – 8 p.m., Hero  
 10 p.m., Spiderman 2 – Midnight, Catwoman

### Nov. 26th

Noon, Hero  
 8 p.m., Taxi  
 Midnight, Taxi

# Fire Dawgs outlast Medics for volleyball title

By Master Sgt. Don Perrien

407th AEG Public Affairs

The 407th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron's Fire Department #1 team won a hard fought match against the Expeditionary Medical Group #1 team to win the coveted base intramural volleyball championship Monday night.

The Fire Dawgs dropped the first game of the finals 21-12 to the Medics, but rallied back to even the match in the second game, 21-14.

In the rubber game, the Medics ran off seven straight points to begin the game, but the Fire Dawgs used aggressive net play to turn the tide in their favor, eventually evening the score at 15.

The firemen then won six of the next eight points, and the deciding game, 21-17.

The win capped off a perfect season for the Fire Department team, who entered the tourney as the top seed with a 7-0 record.

"This was a team effort, and that includes the firemen on the benches cheering us on," said Brandon Little, FD#1 coach. "We were undefeated all season, and this winning this final match against the Medics made it all the more sweeter."



Anton Mak of the 407th Expeditionary Medical Group #1 Team waits to spike a set during the Tallil Air Base Intramural Volleyball Championship Game Monday night. The Medics took the first game, and led 7-0 in the third game, but eventually fell to the 407th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron's Fire Department #1 team 21-17 in the deciding game. The championship capped off an undefeated season for the Fire Dawgs, who entered the tourney with a 7-0 record.

**Today,** Karate, Kenpo/Aikido,  
10:15 p.m.

**Saturday,** Horseshoes, 6 p.m.,  
Squat contest, 7 p.m.

**Sunday,** Intramural Dodgeball, 4  
p.m., Strongman Competition, 6 p.m.

**Monday,** Karate, Kenpo/  
Aikido, 10:15 p.m.

**Tuesday,** Intramural  
Dodgeball, 6 p.m.

**Wednesday,** Hoops  
Challenge, 5:30 p.m., Karate,  
Kenpo/Aikido, 10.15 p.m.

**Thursday,** Thanksgiving Events  
See Page 7 for details



**Intramural Dodgeball is coming!**  
Unit letters of intent are due today!

## Muscle Beach Events

## Nov. 14 Fun Run Winners

### 10K RUN:

**Men's Run Age 26 to 35:**

First Place: Capt Will Grant,

VMAQ-2. (38:59)

Second Place: Capt Eric Kom,

ECES. (49:56)

**Women's Run Age 36 to 45:**

First place: Maj Catherine Clark

EMDG. (47:25)

**Men's Run Age 36 to 45:**

First place: Maj Allen Fry ESVS.

(43:21)

Second place: John Ploch. KBR.

(47:25)

Third place: Maj Rafael Carbonell.

EMDG. (60:55)

**Age 46 and up:**

First place: MSgt Marvin Wyatt.

ECES (51:49)

### 5K RUN:

**Women's Run. Age 25 & Below:**

First Place: SSgt Melissa Chavez.

EOSS. (23:20)

Second Place: Sra Tina Alfaro.

ECES (26:17)

**Men's Run. Age 25 & Below:**

First Place: Sra Christopher

Izydorek, ECES (27:27)

**Men's Run. Age 26 to 35:**

First Place: Scott Victor, 300<sup>th</sup>

(22:10)

Second Place: Maj Richard

Tyson, EMDG (22:45)

Third Place: SSgt Michael

Phipps, VMAQ-2 (24:19)

**Men's Run. Age 36 to 45:**

First Place: Capt Tracy Rue,

EMDG (20:57)

Second Place: TSgt Rusty

Schmidt, AEG/SEG (26:20)

Third Place: Capt Robert Hayes,

EMDG (27:17)

**Men's Run. Age 46 and up:**

First Place: MSgt Bruce

McDaniel, ECES (27:43)

Second Place: SMSgt Robbin

Halcomb, ELRS (30:04)